

Minutes of August 10 EAC Meeting

The Allentown EAC met on August 10, 2015 starting at 5:20 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Conference Room of Allentown City Hall.

EAC members present: Joe Hoffman, Scott Burnet, Rich Niesenbaum, Randy Fey, Tinku Khanwalkar

- The minutes of the July meeting were duly approved.
- There was further discussion of the Color Run to be held again this year – starting at 9:00 a.m. on October 24th. Scott Burnet explained that Lee Creyer who had investigated the fish kill last year and had submitted an informal report to the Parks Department retired on August 9th. The following actions by the EAC were APPROVED:
 - Randy Fey and Joe Hoffman will conduct water sampling of the stream on the day of the Color Run. Scott Burnet will assist with monitoring the stream for any fish kill.
 - Joe Hoffman will discuss the issue with Vicky Kistler as there could be health effects associated with breathing in the colored powder.
 - Scott Burnet will contact the City Fire Marshall as there is a report of an explosion and fire caused by the Color Run held in Taiwan.
- **Reports from Liaisons:**
 - Tinku Khanwalkar reported that she will be giving a report of EAC activities at the City Council meeting on September 16th. All other EAC members should also try to attend.
 - Scott Burnet reported on his observation that the no-mow zones along the stream in Cedar Beach Park have all been mowed down. All the plants at Sparkle Island have also been mowed. Scott will check whether Lehigh Valley Audubon would be willing to start a petition calling for no-mow zones to be established and maintained by the City of Allentown.
 - Scott Burnet reported on his liaison activities with Friends of the Allentown Parks. The current nest boxes in the Rose Garden area will be replaced with new nest boxes suitable for native chickadees or house wrens. The project is being done by the Boy Scouts. The next project will be an 18-unit purple martin house.
 - Rich Niesenbaum reported that most discussion at the Allentown Planning Commission have been about small-scale projects. The Wentz Memorial is

under proposal for development. Rich has raised aesthetics issues about it. Rich also reported on Project 21 and the apartments to be built in that area.

- **Outreach/research on initiatives**

- The stormwater management report prepared by Randy Fey will be provided to City Council along with a Power Point presentation that Randy will develop. Randy expects this can be presented at the October or November City Council meeting.
- There was a discussion about the significant adverse impact cats have on the bird population. This is a problem the EAC may need to look into in the future.
- Randy Fey will attend the EAC greenways meeting/watershed conference in September.
- Rich Niesenbaum reported on urban gardening. The Dominquez Pocket Park on Chew Street will have an urban garden. The Jordan Creek project is also being evaluated with plans for development this fall.
- The seed bomb idea was discussed. Some members liked the idea but others thought it could be problematic. Rich Niesenbaum will do some research on it for further discussion at the next meeting.
- Scott Burnet reported on his research related to plastic bags and Styrofoam. Most Styrofoam is recyclable but is not taken due to its bulk and food contamination. There was discussion of whether the EAC should lead an educational campaign to discourage use of these materials. There was discussion of whether the EAC can help the City obtain a grant for cloth bags. There was discussion of whether the Allentown Recycling Center can be persuaded to take the material. The decision was made to table the matter until the recycling contract comes up for renewal.

The meeting was duly adjourned at 6:30 p.m.